

Speaker Tate and Leader Brinks,

Under your leadership, Michigan Democrats have made historic progress in standing with working men and women, from repealing Right-to-Work and restoring prevailing wage, to expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Despite this progress, there are efforts by some to undermine historic gains secured by the Michigan Supreme Court's recent "adopt and amend" decision. Given our state's proud history of fighting to create, protect, and grow the middle class, these efforts are deeply troubling.

The Michigan Supreme Court said unflinchingly that "the [Republican-controlled] legislature's decision to adopt and amend was an unprecedented and unconstitutional act." We write to reject any attempt to undermine this historic worker victory, and state emphatically that any effort to obstruct, slow down, divide workers, or otherwise undermine tangible benefits secured by workers, would be similarly unprecedented and improper. Michigan legislators should honor the court's recent decision and allow minimum wage increases to proceed without interference.

The recent Michigan Supreme Court decision declaring "adopt and amend" unconstitutional is a victory for Michigan workers and Michigan voters. In a time when Michiganders consistently cite stagnant wages, rising costs, and the economy as top concerns, this decision will give raises to hundreds of thousands of Michiganders. By gradually increasing wages, and ensuring that all workers will receive at least the full minimum wage by 2029, this decision will benefit Michigan's economy and improve the lives of countless working families. The subminimum wage has been tied to high levels of poverty, workplace sexual harassment, wage theft, and high worker turnover rates for businesses unable to retain workers at low pay. In requiring that workers be paid at least the full minimum wage with tips on top, Michigan will join many other states, including Minnesota and California in addressing these harms, securing One Fair Wage, and supporting our state's workers and local economies.

The decision also safeguards Michiganders' constitutional right to create change through the ballot petition process. In 2018, over 400,000 Michiganders signed petitions to raise the minimum wage and secure One Fair Wage for all workers. In 2022, over 600,000 Michiganders signed petitions. This enthusiasm is consistent with momentum from around the country. Over the past 28 years, raising the minimum wage has enjoyed near universal support (26/28 ballot measure success rate), in 2020 over 60% of Florida voters voted to raise tipped worker wages from \$5.53 to \$11.98 (Florida has since added over 70,000 restaurant jobs), and in 2022 over 73% of Washington D.C. voters voted to end subminimum wages and raise wages. Michiganders have been clear on this issue and have used our state's democratic process to make their voices heard. Their voices and our state's democratic process must be respected.

We urge you to stand firm in support of these worker gains and reject any efforts to obstruct or undermine them. The legislature should let the court's decision stand as it is, and continue to lead Michigan towards a future where workers and their families can thrive. Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting the rights and livelihoods of

Michigan's working people. We look forward to working together to build on this important progress.

In solidarity,

